Brew up a perfectly scary Halloween bash

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

October 24, 1991, Thursday, 1* EDITION

Copyright 1991 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: LIFE; SAVVY; Pg. C12

Length: 563 words

Byline: INGRID WATSON; VANSUN

Body

PLANNING A Halloween bash? Don't rely on haunted houses to provide all the Halloween excitement. Make sparks of your own with a house party.

But start now. The night of horror quickly approaches. Use these tips as a guide:

* Devise a plan and keep it simple. Get help and ideas from parents and friends.

* Make a guest list. If you expect a huge crowd, buy invitations or make some.

* Make a list of party essentials: decorations, candy, pop, food, black cats (fake ones, of course, although real ones could add a special touch), etc.

* Decide on a theme. Will this be Dracula's Ball, requiring everyone to come dressed like something out of an old vampire movie? Will it be a Freddie (A Nightmare on Elm Street) and Jason (Friday the 13th) combo, paying respects to modern horror greats? Or, will it be a whatever-your-heart-desires costume bash?

* Plan the evening's agenda. Will guests need to eat and be scary in whatever fashion suits them? Or will there be stations set up for games such as palm reading, storytelling and ghost hunting?

* Make your guests comfortable. Icebreakers are sometimes necessary to get everyone talking and laughing. For example, arrange food and refreshments so that people have to mingle.

Dance and costume contests can get the group stirring. Guests could vote on M.C. Hammer and Paula Abdul dance-alikes or the worst, best, ugliest and scariest costumes.

Plan silly home-made trophies and trick or treat bags for the winners. Trick bags could be small sacks of fake spiders and bugs. Treat bags could be filled with gum and candy. These bags also can be given as door prizes.

A really simple idea is to rent a couple of horror flicks and load up with popcorn, soft drinks and a few chocolate bars. Then let the VCR do its job.

Whatever the party plan, have a good time and a few good scares. After all, it's Halloween.

BRAIN BOGGLER

Here's a Science Week brain boggler to introduce another aspect of science.

What is the greenhouse effect?

A. It is what you get when you mix straw and fresh horse manure to produce the ideal temperature for a greenhouse.

B. It is a new set of building codes that reflect the current ecological sensitivity of the Lower Mainland population.

C. It is the way in which Earth maintains a balanced temperature.

D. It is the observation that homes that are painted green have a lower real estate value than other homes.

The answer is C. The greenhouse effect is the way in which Earth maintains a balanced temperature.

When sunlight passes through the glass of a greenhouse, it warms the soil. At night, the heat from the soil is radiated back into the air inside the greenhouse. But it does not go out through the glass as readily as it came in.

The glass acts like an insulating blanket. It keeps the heat in the greenhouse. Earth's atmosphere acts like a greenhouse.

Our atmosphere's carbon dioxide, water and other gases act like the gases of the greenhouse, keeping heat near the surface of Earth from escaping into space. Without the greenhouse effect, night time temperatures would be too cold for life as we know it.

What is in the news these days is the fact that human activities are adding more carbon dioxide and other gases to the atmosphere.

This is like increasing the thickness of the insulation blanket. It could cause global warming.

Graphic

graphic of witch and cauldron

Load-Date: October 24, 1991

End of Document